

# NASA News

National Aeronautics and  
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Goddard Space Flight Center  
Wallops Flight Facility  
Wallops Island, VA 23337-5099

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## **NASA Wallops Preparing for Future Exploration**

The United States has embarked on a new exploration vision that will guide NASA's science, aeronautics and space research for decades as we continue to study our planet, prepare to return humans to the Moon and explore our vast universe.

The NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va., is embarking on a strategic plan, involving both operations and facilities, which supports this exploration effort. In support of the plan, the facility has conducted a site-wide assessment that analyzes and addresses the potential environmental impacts of current and future activities at the facility.

Dr. John Campbell, senior manager at Wallops said, "We are at an exciting time in the history of Wallops. The country is embarking on the new exploration vision that uses space and Earth science, aeronautics research, and space vehicle development to return humans to the Moon and explore beyond. Wallops is a key supporter in the exploration vision."

He noted, "The facility is a test site of technologies in the development of new launch vehicles for carrying satellites and possibly humans into space. We are actively using unpiloted aerial vehicles in science and aeronautic research. We also are participating in studies to use balloons for exploring other planets. We have long been the location in NASA for providing opportunities for students to fly experiments and now they can take part in the exploration excitement."

"The exploration vision is providing exciting opportunities for Wallops and the Eastern Shore," Campbell said.

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The Site-Wide Environmental Assessment addresses recurring activities and proposed future actions at Wallops, both by NASA and its customers. It examines the impact of Wallops activities on physical, biological, social and economic resources in the area.

Caroline Massey, Assistant Director of Management Operations, said, "This site-wide environmental assessment process at Wallops is the best way for NASA to define all current operations and plan for projected future activities at Wallops in a comprehensive, instead of piece meal, way. This will allow NASA and our community to better understand the overall relationship of Wallops activities to our environment."

A draft of the environmental assessment is available for review between Nov. 10 and Dec. 10, 2004. Comments must be submitted by December 10.

The draft assessment and contact information may be viewed on the web at:

<http://www.wff.nasa.gov/~code250/Documents/documents.htm>

The assessment also is available at the Eastern Shore Public Library in Accomac, Va., the Island Library in Chincoteague, Va., and the Wallops Technical Library.

In addition any organizations that would like representatives from NASA Wallops to meet and discuss the future activities at Wallops and the environment assessment can contact Keith Koehler at (757)824-1579 or by email at [keith.a.koehler@nasa.gov](mailto:keith.a.koehler@nasa.gov).

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